

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 MC-02 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02

OMB-01 ACDA-19 GAC-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /181 W

----- 009877

R 230837 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8521

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

/ AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 0692

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4019

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, FR

SUBJECT: ISRAELI- FRENCH RELATIONS

REF: PARIS 12096

1. ACTING DIRECTOR ARAN OF MFA FIRST EUROPEAN DIV TOLD EMBOFF MAY 21 THAT GOF STILL HAD NOT ANSWERED GOI QUERY ABOUT TRANSFER OF LIBYAN MIRAGES TO EGYPT. ARAN SAID ISRAELIS HAD NO CLEAR INDICATION THAT AIRCRAFT IN QUEST HAD NOW RETURNED TO LIBYA. IN ARAN'S VIEW, WHAT MATTERED IN ANY CASE WAS NOT CURRENT LOCATION OF AIRCRAFT BUT CREATION OF INFRA-STRUCTURE IN EGYPT TO RECEIVE THEM. ISRAEL CONSIDERED FRENCH ATTITUDE TO BE CLEAR: GOF SIMPLY WOULD NOT ADDRESS ISSUE, AND ISRAEL COULD NOT FORCE GOF TO DO SO.

2. ARAN SAID FRENCH WERE CONTINUING TO TRY TO CREATE
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IMPRESSION OF IMPROVEMENT IN FRANCO- ISRAELI RELATIONS, BUT THERE WAS NONE, EXCEPT PERHAPS IN ATMOSPHERE. AMB BEN NATAN' S ONE CALL SO FAR ON FONMIN JOBERT WAS CORDIAL BUT PRODUCED LITTLE. ISRAELIS WERE NOT SURPRISED, AS THEY VIEW JOBERT AS POMPIDOU MAN AND AS HAVING STILL LESS ROOM FOR INITIATIVE THAN SCHUMANN DID. ARAN SAID QUESTION OF OFFICIAL PARIS VISIT BY EBAN DID ARISE, AND EBAN STOPOVER IN PARIS EN ROUTE TO UNGA IN SEPTEMBER SHOULD NOT BE RULED OUT.

3. ACCORDING TO ARAN, ONE GOOD THING WAS ONGOING FRENCH DISINCLINATION TO ENGAGE IN MID EAST PEACE INITIATIVES. FRENCH SEEMED TO BE DOING WELL ENOUGH COMMERCIALY IN ARAB WORLD WITHOUT SUCH ACTIVITY. THIS CONNECTION, ARAN WAS DISTURBED BY RUMORS FRANCE WOULD DROP ITS MID EAST ARMS EMBARGO LATER THIS YEAR ON GROUNDS IT POINTLESS IF OTHER MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIERS NOT PARTICIPATING. ARAN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH FRENCH REFERRED TO POSSIBLE EMBARGO CANCELLATION AS FRIENDLY GESTURE TO ISRAEL, THIS WAS FALSE. ISRAEL HAD MOVED BEYOND MIRAGE STAGE, BUT EGYPT COULD USE MIRAGES AND ESPECIALLY THE ONE YEAR OF ASSOCIATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THAT CAME WITH MIRAGE CONTRACTS. THERE EVEN WAS A RUMOR THAT FRENCH MERCENARIES MIGHT FLY MIRAGES FOR EGYPT.
ZURHELLEN

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NMAFVVZCZ

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